



## Help Protect Public Lands

**PROTECT NATURAL FEATURES** by leaving wildflowers for the next visitor. Do your part in preventing human-caused wildfires by using camp stoves or established fire pits. Collect only dead trees for fires. Leave cultural or historical artifacts in place and inform rangers of their location. Remember that it is illegal to collect eagle feathers or parts.

**MOTORIZED VEHICLES** cause lasting damage to vegetation and trails. Stay on established roads and trails unless otherwise advised. Check openings and closings for snowmachines and other off-road travel.

**PETS** must be on leashes at developed facilities, such as campgrounds and picnic areas, and under voice command in other areas. Dogs are not allowed in Denali National Park and Preserve.

**HUNTING & FISHING** are permitted in many areas, but there are specific regulations for each unit. Be sure you have accurate maps of unit boundaries. Contact Alaska Department of Fish and Game for firearms regulations.

**RESPECT** private property.

**TRASH** should be removed or placed in containers provided. In the backcountry or off-season, pack out what you pack in. Practice low-impact camping.

### Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

- Anchorage 907-271-2737
- Fairbanks 907-456-0527
- Ketchikan 907-228-6220
- Tok 907-883-5667



For More Information  
Anchorage Public Lands Information Center  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 105  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-271-2737  
Fax: 907-271-2744  
[www.nps.gov/aplic](http://www.nps.gov/aplic)



# *The Corridor*

VISITOR GUIDE

Road Accessible Public Lands between Anchorage and Fairbanks



Independence Mine.....page 9



Backcountry.....page 18



Tundra & Taiga.....page 22



*Sharing Alaska's Natural and Cultural Heritage*

# Contents

- 6 Anchorage
- 7 Eagle River
- 8 Eklutna
- 9 Independence Mine
- 10 Nancy Lake
- 12 Talkeetna
- 13 Denali State Park
- 14 Denali Highway
- 16 Fairbanks
- 18 Backcountry Guide
- 20 Bear Safety
- 21 Respecting Wildlife
- 22 Tundra and Taiga
- 23 Trip Planning



**Welcome** to Alaska Public Lands Information Centers. *The Corridor* is your guide for travel between Alaska's two largest cities, Anchorage and Fairbanks. These cities boast of vastly differing characteristics: Anchorage is the busy commercial hub of Alaska industry and travel while Fairbanks embraces its heritage as a historic gold rush city; Anchorage is a coastal city on Cook Inlet and Fairbanks is in the heart of the Interior.

As you travel this 358-mile-long corridor, you will experience some of the most breathtaking scenery in the United States. The highway provides access to many of the 325 million acres of public land in Alaska, including Denali state and national parks as well as views of Mount McKinley, North America's highest peak.

The Alaska Public Lands Information Centers located in Anchorage and Fairbanks are but two of the four centers authorized by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. Additional information centers are located in Ketchikan and Tok. These centers help to inform, educate and assist travelers in planning their Alaska experience. You can even reach us before you arrive by visiting us on the web at [www.nps.gov/aplic](http://www.nps.gov/aplic).

Clay Alderson  
Superintendent

## CREDITS

APLIC Coordinators: Chris Smith,  
Christopher P. Smith,  
Joanne Welch

Produced and Designed by



All photos and maps courtesy of NPS unless otherwise noted.

Printed by the Anchorage Daily News on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

*The Corridor* is published by the Alaska Natural History Association in cooperation with Anchorage Public Lands Information Center. It is funded by revenue from Association outlets.

© Alaska Natural History Association.





## Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

The Alaska Public Lands Information Centers are gateways to the parks, forests and refuges of Alaska. They were established as part of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 to provide residents and visitors access to information and education about their public lands.

Public land in Alaska accounts for over 235 state and federal units, encompassing 80% of the state. These areas include 16 national parks, 16 national wildlife refuges, 133 state parks and recreation areas, the nation's two largest national forests, and numerous other conservation units. National parks in Alaska comprise over half of the acreage in the entire national park system. Topping that figure, 88% of all national wildlife refuge acreage is found in Alaska. Alaska's state parks total three million acres, making it the largest state system in the nation.

The enormous amount of public land in Alaska provides for an exponential number of recreational and educational opportunities. The Alaska Public Lands Information Centers provide visitors with information at each of four strategic locations throughout the state. The National Park Service manages the facilities in Anchorage and Fairbanks to serve air travelers and Alaska's largest urban communities. The State of Alaska directs the Center in Tok, entry point for travelers along the Alaska-Canada Highway. The Southeast Discovery Center in Ketchikan, a major port for ferry and cruise ships, is operated by the U.S. Forest Service. Based on their location, each center by necessity has a regional expertise, but all the centers help residents and visitors enjoy Alaska.



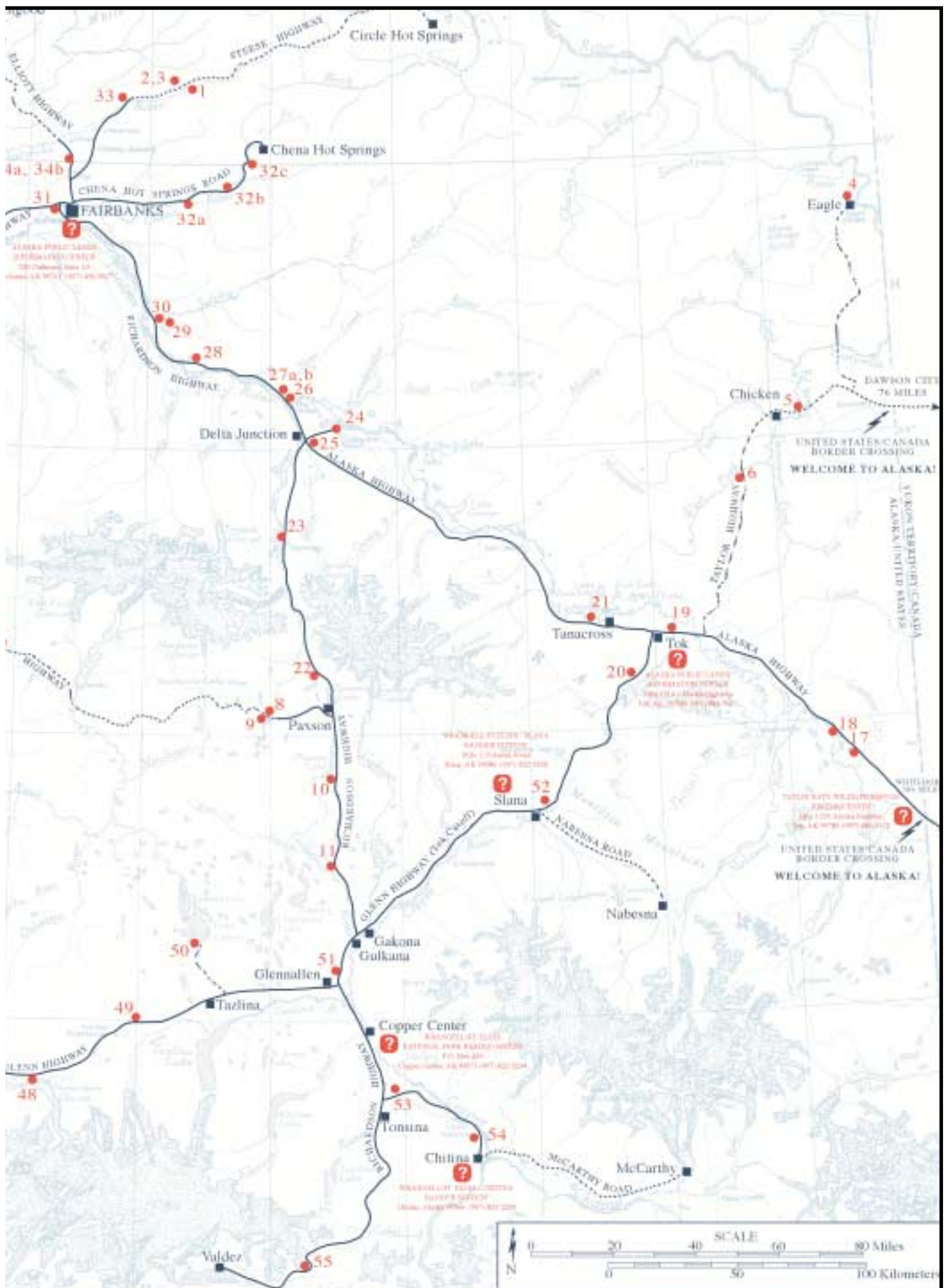
# **PUBLIC LANDS CAMPGROUNDS IN CENTRAL ALASKA** ACCESSIBLE BY ROAD

	QUAY STAY	# OF UNITS	WATER	TOILETS	FISHING	BOAT RAMP	OWNER FEE	DISCOUNT	STATION	MILE/HIGHWAY
<b>U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (907) 271-0344</b>										
1. Cripple Creek	10	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		81	Stevens Highway
2. Mt. Denali	10	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		27.5	Stevens Highway
3. Upper	10	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		85.5	Stevens Highway
4. Eagle	10	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		100	Taylor Highway
5. Walker Fork	10	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		82	Taylor Highway
6. West Fork	10	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		49	Taylor Highway
7. Brooks Lake	14	21	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		104.5	Denali Highway
8. Denali Lakes	14	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		21.5	Denali Highway
9. Denali River	0	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		21.5	Denali Highway
10. Perom Lake	14	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		175	Richardson Hwy.
11. Southfork Creek	14	41	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		147.5	Richardson Hwy.
12. Stryker Lake	14	14	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		60	Taylor Hwy.
13. Morrow Creek	14	27	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		180	Taylor Hwy.
14. Gishnah Lake	14	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		275	Taylor Hwy.
<b>U.S. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Denali National Park) (907) 683-3294 1-800-622-7277</b>										
15. a. Riley Creek	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		6.4	Denali Park Rd.
b. Morris Rockpile	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		1.8	Denali Park Rd.
c. Savage River	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		13	Denali Park Rd.
d. Savage Group	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		13	Denali Park Rd.
e. Steens River	14	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		23	Denali Park Rd.
f. Salsburg River	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		29	Denali Park Rd.
g. Igloo Creek	14	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		34	Denali Park Rd.
h. Wonder Lake	14	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		89	Denali Park Rd.
<b>U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (Solita National Wildlife Refuge) (907) 683-0312</b>										
17. Deadman Lake	14	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		1240.3	Alaska Hwy.
18. Lakeview	14	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	G		1296.7	Alaska Hwy.
<b>ALASKA STATE DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION (907) 268-0400</b>										
19. Tok River	15	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		130.0	Alaska Hwy.
20. Eagle Trail	15	45	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		104.5	Tok Creek
21. Moss Lake	15	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		102	Alaska Hwy.
22. Harding Lake	15	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		200.3	Richardson Hwy.
23. Denali Creek	15	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		230	Richardson Hwy.
24. Chertok	15	18	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		8.5	Chertok Rd.
25. Delta	15	24	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		207	Richardson Hwy.
26. Big Delta	15	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		274.3	Richardson Hwy.
27. Quartz Lake SRA										
a. Quartz Lake	15	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		277.0	Richardson Hwy.
b. Lost Lake	15	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		277.0	Richardson Hwy.
28. Birch Lake	15	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		310.5	Richardson Hwy.
29. Harding Lake	15	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		321.4	Richardson Hwy.
30. Salsburg River	15	4	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		323.3	Richardson Hwy.
31. Chertok River SRA	15	41	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		Unimproved Access	
32. Chertok River SRA										
a. Bushy	15	37	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		27	Chertok Hot Springs Rd.
b. Two Trail	15	26	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		39	Chertok Hot Springs Rd.
c. Red Spruce	15	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		43	Chertok Hot Springs Rd.
33. U. Chertok SRA	15	35	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		39	Stevens Hwy.
34. L. Chertok SRA										
a. Wierick	15	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		11	Elliot Hwy.
b. Green Pond	15	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		93.5	Elliot Hwy.
35. Denali NP										
a. L. Treadwell	15	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		177.2	Parks Hwy.
b. Byron Lake	15	70	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		147	Parks Hwy.
c. Denali Viewpoint	15	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		163.0	Parks Hwy.
36. Willow Creek SRA										
a. Willow Creek	15	140	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		70.8	Parks Hwy.
b. Georgetown Creek	15	7	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		48	Hatcher Pass Rd.
37. Nancy Lake SRA										
a. Nancy Lake	15	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		6.5	Nancy Lake Hwy.
38. Nancy Lake SRA	15	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		66.5	Parks Hwy.
39. Big Lake North	15	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		9.8	Big Lake Rd.
40. Big Lake South	15	20	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		52.0	Big Lake Rd.
41. Little North*	15	145	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		Unimproved Access	
42. Trapper Lake	15	41	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		Trapper Rd.	
43. Rocky Lake	15	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		3.5	Big Lake Rd.
44. Chugach NP										
a. Chugach	15	30	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		26.5	Glenn Hwy.
b. Eagle River	15	80	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		12.5	Glenn Hwy.
45. King Mountain	15	22	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		76	Glenn Hwy.
46. Banner Lake	15	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		85.3	Glenn Hwy.
47. Long Lake	15	8	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		80.3	Glenn Hwy.
48. Matanuska Glacier	15	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		101	Glenn Hwy.
49. Little Natchez	15	11	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		175.4	Glenn Hwy.
50. Lake Louise	15	40	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		100	Glenn Hwy.
51. Dry Creek	15	38	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		117.3	Richardson Hwy.
52. Powerhouse Creek	15	12	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		64	Tok Creek
53. Squaw Creek	15	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		79.5	Richardson Hwy.
54. Liberty Falls	15	10	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		23.5	Edgerton Hwy.
55. Rattlesnake Lake	15	15	Y	Y	Y	Y	P		23	Richardson Hwy.

\* Minimum 3 day stay for Recreational Vehicles  
 \*\* Little North is administered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (907) 244-0541  
 Note: Management designations are for these campgrounds. Contact the State Agency for updated information.  
**LEGEND**  
 Disks are **not** available on any public lands campgrounds in Alaska  
 Y = YES SRS = STATE RECREATION SITE  
 A = HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE SRA = STATE RECREATION AREA  
 P = STATE PARK PASS PAVED ROADS UNPAVED ROADS  
 (State's Fish and Game Service campgrounds are marked with a "P" for paved roads and a "U" for unpaved roads. In parentheses, camp of the Alaska Public Lands Information Center to contact the State of Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation)  
 G = Golden Age and/or Golden Access Passports  
 Publicly operated campgrounds offer a 50% discount on camping fees for seniors with Golden Age or Golden Access passports. The Golden Age Passport is a free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens aged 62 or older. The Golden Access Passport for Alaska State Parks is permanently awarded U.S. citizens. To apply for these discounts, contact the Alaska Public Lands Information Center.  
**STATE AND FEDERAL INFORMATION CENTERS**







# Alaska Public Lands Information Center—Anchorage

## Directions

Located in the historic Federal Building on Fourth Avenue and F Street in downtown Anchorage, this interagency center offers a variety of year-round programs and services to residents and visitors alike.



## Summer Activities

During the summer, visitors seek trip planning information and a chance to view the free movies and exhibits. The center offers an overview of Alaska's natural and cultural heritage, providing visitors with a preview of things to come in their adventures in

Alaska. Daily programs at 2 p.m. feature live animals from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center and the Alaska Zoo. Authors, photographers and scientists also share their knowledge and experience through readings, demonstrations and illustrated programs. Daily walking tours at 11 a.m. highlight the historical, cultural and natural resources of the state.

## Winter Activities

During the winter, the center shifts focus and the primary visitors are students from the surrounding community. Each school year National Park Service rangers provide students with educational experiences about the importance of parks and public lands in Alaska. The staff facilitates scavenger hunts, puppet shows, films, special events and live animal programs.

## Visitor Center

The Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Anchorage is open 7 days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day, and Monday through Friday during the winter. Visitors can purchase park entrance and day-use passes, as well as books and maps from the Alaska Natural History Association bookstore.

## For More Information

Anchorage Alaska Public Lands Information Center  
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 105  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Phone: 907-271-2737  
Fax: 907-271-2744  
[www.nps.gov/aplic](http://www.nps.gov/aplic)





# Chugach State Park—Eagle River

## Directions

Take the Eagle River Loop Road exit off the Glenn Highway, 13-15 miles north of Anchorage. Travel 12 miles east on Eagle River Road to the nature center.

## History

The Eagle River Valley was carved into the landscape by receding glaciers. A 26-mile segment of the Historic Iditarod Trail runs from the town of Girdwood, up and over Crow Pass, to the Eagle River Nature Center. In the early 1900s, before the Alaska Railroad or Seward Highway was constructed, miners and prospectors followed this route as they headed north in search of gold.

## Activities

Summer visitors to the Eagle River area enjoy hiking, whitewater rafting and kayaking, fishing for Dolly Varden and King Salmon, wildlife viewing, photography and berry picking. A variety of hiking trails start from the Nature Center, including the Iditarod and Crow Pass trails. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, dog sledding, skijoring, ice climbing, winter photography and "sky watching." Long hours of darkness during the winter months create the perfect backdrop for bright constellations and northern lights.

## Camping

Eagle River Campground, open May through September, is located one mile south of town on Eagle River Loop Road at mile 12 of the Glenn Highway. This facility offers 57 campsites, picnic tables, fire pits, water, flush toilets and a RV dump station. An overflow camping area provides 10 additional sites. Camping fees are \$15 per night, with a four-night limit. Eagle River Nature Center rents one cabin and two yurts, both accessible by foot, year-round.

## Visitor Center

There is a \$5 parking fee at Eagle River Nature Center. The Center offers a gift shop, limited outdoor gear rental, interpretive displays, programs and visitor information.

## For More Information

Eagle River Nature Center  
32750 Eagle River Road  
Eagle River, AK 99577  
Phone: 907-694-2108  
Fax: 907-694-2119  
[www.ernc.org](http://www.ernc.org)





# Eklutna Lake

## Directions

Take the Eklutna Lake exit at mile 26 on the Glenn Highway, and follow park signs ten miles to Eklutna Lake.

## History

The Eklutna Glacier carved this valley as it retreated, leaving horizontal scarring on rock formations as evidence of its passage. Glacial and freshwater streams flowing into the valley created this seven-mile-long lake, an excellent place to fish, canoe, kayak, windsurf and sail. Eklutna Lake feeds a power plant and provides drinking water for the Anchorage area.

## Activities

Summer visitors enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, climbing, picnicking, fishing and boating. ATVs share trails Sunday through Wednesday in the summer. Winter activities include cross-country skiing, dog mushing and snowmachining. The weather can change rapidly in this valley, bringing sudden high winds, especially in the afternoon. Watch the weather closely and always wear a personal flotation device when on the water.

## Camping

Eklutna Lake Campground has 50 campsites, water, toilets, picnic tables and fire pits. An overflow camping area has 15 sites. Camping fees are posted, and camping is allowed for 15 consecutive nights. The Eklutna Lake or Yuditnu Cabin, 3 miles from the trailhead, is available year-round. Call 907-269-8400 for reservations.

There are two remote campgrounds along the Lakeside Trail: Eklutna Alex Campground at mile 8.8, and Kanchee at mile 11. These can be reached by foot, bicycle, horseback or snowmachine. There are toilets, a picnic table and fire ring at each site. There is no fee for staying in these campgrounds.

## Facilities

Interpretive displays, a telescope for viewing wildlife and a consessionaire are located near the trailhead parking area. There is a picnic shelter for group activities in the day-use area. A large group picnic and camping area may be reserved and are handicapped accessible.

## For More Information

Chugach State Park Headquarters  
HC59, Box 8999  
Indian, AK 99540  
907-345-5014  
[www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)



## Palmer Area

Palmer, 42 miles from Anchorage on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway is a must-stop. Palmer is centrally located for a wide variety of activities at Hatchers Pass, Independence Mine and Summit Lake Recreational Area to the north; Kepler-Bradley State Recreation Area and the Palmer Hayflats State Game Sanctuary to the south; Finger Lake State Recreation Site to the west; and the town of Sutton to the east.

### For More Information

Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau  
HC01, Box 6166 J21  
Palmer AK 99645  
Phone: 907-746-5000  
Fax: 907-746-2688  
[www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com)



# Independence Mine State Historical Park

## Directions

Just past Palmer, turn left off the Glenn Highway onto Hatcher Pass Road and head 17 miles to Independence Mine State Historical Park. Check road conditions between September 15 and May 30. The use of snowmachines and off-road vehicles is prohibited in the park but allowed in surrounding areas.



## History

Before gold-seekers began their stampede into Nome, Fairbanks or the Yukon, gold was discovered in the Susitna and Matanuska river basins where hard rock (lode) gold was found scattered in quartz veins throughout the granite in the Talkeetna Mountains. In 1906, Robert Lee Hatcher discovered and staked the first lode gold claim in the Willow Creek Valley.

Lode mining was expensive because it required elaborate tunnels and heavy equipment, so companies merged to pool resources and reduce expenses. The claims at Independence Mine covered more than 1,350 acres and included 27 structures. In its peak year, 1941, the Alaska Pacific Consolidated Mining Company employed 204 men, blasted nearly a dozen miles of tunnels, and produced 34,416 ounces of gold worth \$17,208,000 today.

In 1974, Independence Mine was entered into the National Register of Historic Places, and in 1981 it became a state park.

## Visitor Center

The visitor center is open during the summer from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Guided tours depart at 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily on weekdays. On weekends and holidays an additional tour is offered at 4:30 p.m. There is a day-use parking fee and a separate tour fee. The visitor center is closed during the winter.

## Activities

Hiking, mountain biking and year-round trails await visitors to Independence Mine and the Hatcher Pass area. Winter activities include skiing, snowboarding, snowmachining and backcountry hiking. Backcountry travelers should be self-reliant and equipped in avalanche rescue. Two nearby lodges provide year-round accommodations.

## For More Information

Independence Mine State Historical Park  
Visitor Center  
907-745-2827

Please Help Protect Our Parks

Artifacts should be left for others to enjoy. It is against state law to remove or disturb them.





# Nancy Lake State Recreation Area

## Directions

Turn west onto Nancy Lake Parkway at mile 67.3 of the Parks Highway. From there, the road travels 6.5 miles southwest to South Rolly Lake Campground. In winter, the parkway is not plowed beyond the winter trailhead at mile 2.2. The community of Willow lies two miles north of the Parks Highway junction, and has a full range of services for the traveler.

## History

When the ice retreated from this area some 9,000 years ago, it left a rolling landscape of elongated glacial deposits, called drumlins, dotted with hundreds of lakes and ponds. State archaeologists believe that people lived in the region soon after the glaciers receded. It is believed that Tanaina Indians and Pacific Eskimos occupied the area. Two prehistoric village sites have been identified just outside the recreation area. The nearby towns of Wasilla, Houston and Willow grew as homesteaders settled on land opened up by rail access.

## Activities

Nancy Lake State Recreation Area is one of the few flat, lake-studded landscapes in Alaska preserved for recreation purposes. The clear waters are ringed with unspoiled forests and provide tranquil settings for canoeing and fishing. The area features a well-developed canoe trail system, but off-trail hiking is limited by heavy underbrush and wet terrain. In winter, the rolling topography is ideal for cross-country skiing, dog mushing and snowmachining.

There are two maintained campgrounds with road access, water and toilets. South Rolly at the end of the parkway has 98 sites and Nancy Lake State Recreation Site, reached from mile 66.5 of the Parks Highway, has over 30 sites.

## Public Use Cabins

There are several rustic cabins available for rent on a nightly basis. Cabins are located on Red Shirt, Lynx, Nancy, James and Bald lakes. The cabins are equipped with wooden bunks, wood-burning stoves, an outhouse and an outdoor fire ring. Occupants need to bring all personal items, including drinking water and firewood. Only wood that is down and dead may be gathered. Use of the cabins is by reservation only. Campfires are permitted only in the developed fireplaces provided.

## For More Information

Nancy Lake Ranger Station  
Mile 1.3 Nancy Lake Parkway  
P.O. Box 10  
Willow, AK 99688  
Phone: 907-495-6273  
Fax: 907-495-6671



## Big Lake Area

The largest lake in the Matanuska-Susitna Valley is popular for boating, waterskiing, fishing and camping. Big Lake North and South offer campsites, picnic areas, boat launches and water-based recreation. There are numerous private campgrounds as well as private homes in the area.

# Willow Area—An Angler's Paradise

## Directions

Willow is located 70 miles north of Anchorage and 289 miles south of Fairbanks on the Parks Highway. The area encompasses lands north of Nancy Lake to the Talkeetna River Drainage.

## History

The Willow area has been home to human activity for centuries. Native Alaskans were drawn to the area for its rich fishing, the same reason people from all over the world still visit the area. After gold was discovered in 1897, the area began attracting non-Native settlers. This trend continued as the Alaska Railroad pushed north to Nenana prior to World War I, bringing construction workers and their suppliers. World War II brought the military to Willow and temporarily interrupted the flow of gold. By 1972, with the completion of the Parks Highway, Willow became a mecca for anglers.

## Activities

Willow is well-known for its fishing. Rivers and creeks with names such as Deshka, Alexander, Yentna, Little Susitna, Willow, Kashwitna, Goose, Sunshine, Little Willow, Sheep and Montana are familiar to anglers around the world. The Little Susitna River, Willow Creek and Sheep Creek are handicapped accessible.

During the winter, Willow becomes a training ground for dog mushers who live in the area specifically to prepare for races such as the Iditarod. Other popular winter activities include cross-country skiing and snowmachining.

Willow is also a terminus for the Hatcher Pass Road, connecting Palmer to the Parks Highway. This scenic road is closed during the winter, but provides access to great hiking and berry picking during the summer.

## Camping and Facilities

There are two first-come, first-served campgrounds in the Willow Creek State Recreation Area: Willow Creek and Deception Creek. Additional camping is available further south in the Nancy Lake area.

Public boat ramps are available at the Deshka, Willow Creek and Susitna landings.

## For More Information

Mat-Su Region State Park Office  
HC 32 Box 6706  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
907-745-3975  
[www.alaskastateparks.org](http://www.alaskastateparks.org)

